(c) whether the Railways propose to agree to part with the surplus land in both these places by nominal price;

(d) by when Government of India would solve this long pending problem;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is a clause in the Agreement when the land was allotted to Railways by princely State that Railways cannot dispose of this land; and

(0 whether it is also a fact that whenever Railways dispose of the land, first preference should be given to the party concerned which has given the land to the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Records in this regard are not readily available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) This depends on the State Government's willingness to take over the lands, to the extent surplus to Railways' requirements, at current market value as per extent rules.

(e) Records in this regard are not readily available.

(f) There is provision for return of the surplus land to the original owners or their legal heir* only in case of agricultural and pastoral lands.

Construction of a Railway Over Bridge in Tamil Nadu

1281. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the pressing necessity of constructing a over bridge at the level crossing near Aringlem on Perambalur-Aringalem Highway in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, by when the construction would begin; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) of the question be in the negative, whether Government would undertaken the scheme in view of the long pending demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways consider construction of road over bridges in replacement of those level crossings for which proposals are sponsored by the concerned State Government/Local Authority, agreeing to bear their share of cost for such works as per rules.

सहायक इंजीनियरों के सीनियर स्केल में पदोन्नति के नियम

1282. श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे विभाग में कार्यरत सहायक इंजीनियरों को सीनियर स्केल पर पदोन्नति देने के नियम अलग-अलग जोन में अलग हैं यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में सरकार को कोई प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं कि ग्रुप "ए" सहायक इंजीनियरों और ग्रुप "बी" सहायक इंजीनियरों की पदोन्नति में भेदभाव किया जा रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो केन्द्र सरकार ने अब तक इस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है; और

(घ) यदि प्राप्त नहीं हुए हैं तो क्या केन्द्र सरकार ऐसे आदेश जारी करने का विचार रखती है कि केवल वरिष्ठता के आधार पर ही सहायक इंजीनियरों में से पदोन्नति की जावेगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) जी हां ।

(ग) और (घ) सभी वरिष्ठ वेतनमान पद ग्रुप "ए" में हैं तथा पात्र ग्रुप "ए"/कनिष्ठ वेतनमान के अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति द्वारा भरे जाते हैं और पात्र ग्रुप "ए"/कनिष्ठ वेतनमान के अधिकारी उपलब्ध न होने पर अपेक्षित वर्षों की सेवा पूरी कर लेने वाले ग्रुप "बी" के अधिकारियों की तदर्थ आधार पर वरिष्ठ वेतनमान में पदोन्नति करने के बारे में विचार किया जाता है । मौजूदा नीति में कोई परिवर्तन करना आवश्यक नहीं समझा जाता है ।

Introduction of a Rajdhani Express to Assam

1283. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the reasons for not introducing a Rajdhani Express to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): It is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Privatisation of Palace on Wheels

1284. SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Privatization of "Palace on 'Wheels" has been under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, what is the decision if any taken in this regard; stating the reasons for privatizing the "Palace on Wheels" ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Convertion of Hospet-Hobii Metre Gauge Section

1285. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sanction has been granted for conversion of Hospet-Hubli metre gauge section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this conversion will be beneficial to Hubli Workshop and also whether Hubli will have a broad gauge link with all the major centres of the country; and

(d) what action is being considered to accord top priority to the 144 kilometres, Hospet-Hubli broad gauge conversion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of conversion of Hospet-Hubli-Goa (with linked finger) 489 kms. has been sanctioned and included in the Budget of 92-93. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 312.00 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work on long lead items like land and bridges have been taken up. Conversion of Hospet-Hubli has been planned to be completed by 95-96, subject to availability of resources.

Female Staff in Railway Board

1286. SYED SIBTEY RAZI Will the Minis ter of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether working timings in Railway Board are from 9.00 AM to 5.30 PM.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 85 per cent female staff leave their offices between 4.00 PM to 4.30 PM daily;

(d) whether remaining 15 per cent female staff leave there offices at 5.00 PM daily:

(e) whether female staff get equal pay and have equal avenues of promotion with male staff of Railway Board;

(0 whether no attendance checks have been made in the evening timings during January to July, 1993 to check the tendency of leaving offices as in (c) and (d) amongst female staff; and

(g) if so, reasons therefor and action to be taken against officials of administration for creating inferiority complex amongst male staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The working timings in Railway Board are from 9.00 AM to 5 30 PM with lunch break from 1.00 PM to 1.30 PM.

(c) and (d) No. Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir

(0 Attendance checks have been conducted in the evening timings also during January to July, 1993.

(g) Does not arise.

Abortion leave for women employees of Railway and Railway Board

1287. SYED SIBTEY RAZI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether abortion leave is granted to women employees of Railway and Railway Board;

(b) if so, the number of such employees separately for zone-wise and Railway Board availed of this facility during each month from January to July, 1993;

(c) whether a large number of some women employees having three children of Railway Board have availed of this leave in the past in addition to availing of such leave during 1993;

(d) if so, the number of such employees cadre-wise with details of such relevant rules prescribing no children limit and no time limit; and